

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group

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Report on Mission to UNICEF/Eastern and Southern Africa  
Regional Office, Nairobi  
to  
"Review Sub-Regional Status of Multiple Indicator Cluster  
Survey Initiative  
27/3/96 - 1/4/96  
by  
Parmeet Singh  
Regional Adviser on Management and Organization  
of  
National Statistical Systems

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Addis Ababa  
March 1996

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The Regional Adviser has since joining ECA, developed close collaboration with Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) of UNICEF in promotion of UNICEF sponsored Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) initiative. The premise and justification for this collaboration from ECA's point of view is the contribution that UNICEF's MICS initiative can make in a particular and immediate context on collection of data on living conditions, much needed by ECA itself and also generally, and the contribution that MICS will make in capacity building of the CSOs involved in conducting MICS. ECA's collaboration is essentially complementary to UNICEF's endeavours, given the importance of CSOs participation in UNICEF's MICS initiative and ECA's institutional connection with the CSOs.

The Regional Adviser has collaborated with UNICEF/ESARO in undertaking joint missions on promotion of MICSs in countries within ESARO sub-region as well as organized a successful regional workshop on MICS. This collaboration has resulted in achieving positive results as far as promotion of MICS in global context is concerned. This is the immediate outcome of the collaboration. In the longer term context the collaboration is beginning to succeed in implementation of integrated programmes of household surveys by CSOs and the development of requisite capacity to implement them. This has been one of the long standing objectives of ECAs programme in technical cooperation in Statistics. The collaboration has been undertaken as per provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between ECA and UNICEF.

Given the successful outcome of the collaboration to-date, there is need for an assessment of the status-quo on MICS initiatives in ESARO region in order to lay-down the strategy and plan of action for further collaboration on MICS in 1996 and there-after. This is the background to the Regional Advisers mission to UNICEF/ESARO Nairobi, the reference point of this report.

## **II. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for the Regional Advisers mission were discussed and defined in an exchange of communications between ECA and UNICEF/ESARO - Appendix 1/A and B refer.

## **III. MISSION ACTIVITIES**

The Regional Advisers mission to UNICEF/ESARO overlapped with his mission to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Kenya. His consultations with UNICEF/ESARO therefore took place intermittently with his consultations with CBS.

In UNICEF/ESARO Regional Adviser consulted exclusively but extensively with Mr. Mahesh Patel, its Evaluation and Monitoring Officer (EMO). The Regional Adviser met with the EMO variously on Wednesday 27 March from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., on Thursday 28 March from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., on Friday 24 March from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and on Monday 1 April from 3.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

#### IV. MISSION OUTPUTS

As far as country level activities of the joint ECA/UNICEF collaboration are concerned the Regional Adviser has reviewed with Mr. Patel the status of MICS being currently undertaken by CBS, Kenya. Arrangements, it has been agreed, will be sought to have MICS incorporated in the core annual survey being developed by CBS, as a component of its National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme, 1997-2000<sup>1</sup>. They have also scheduled a joint mission to Tanzania in the forthcoming second quarter of 1996 to review the results of MICS which has been undertaken Bureau of Statistics (Takwimu) Tanzania.

More significantly and substantively, however, the Regional Adviser and Mr. Patel have initiated arrangements to review and evaluate MICS in the ESARO sub-region and in the third quarter of 1996, to convene an expert seminar of the directors of CSOs in the region.

To that effect, the Regional Adviser and Mr. Patel, have during the mission consulted on and elaborated a questionnaire to obtain background information on the status-quo of MICS in the ESARO sub-region. A copy of the questionnaire is here attached as **Appendix 2**.

Having developed the questionnaire the Regional Adviser and Mr. Patel went on to develop a draft proposal on the Joint ECA/UNICEF-ESARO Sub Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop to be convened in Nairobi from 2-6 September, 1996. The proposal has attempted to ensure active participation of the directors of CSOs by seeking contributions from as many of them as possible. A copy of the draft proposed is here attached as **Appendix 3**.

Both the questionnaire and the draft proposal were, at the end of the mission, copied to UNICEF Headquarters, UNFPA and the World Bank for comments. **Appendix 4** refers.

#### V. MISSION ASSESSMENT

The Regional Adviser has during the mission and in consultation with UNICEF/ESARO agreed on arrangements to convene a Joint ECA/UNICEF-ESARO Sub-Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in the third quarter of 1996. A survey questionnaire has been elaborated

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<sup>1</sup> See Parmeet Singh: Mission Report: ECA/MRAG/96/28/MR.

to collect data on the status of MICS in the ESARO sub-region and a draft proposal on the workshop developed. Additionally the Regional Adviser and UNICEF/ESARO have appraised MICS currently being undertaken by CBS Kenya, and agreed to undertake a joint mission, during the second quarter 1996, to evaluate results of MICS undertaken by Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania. It is anticipated missions to other countries will follow in the third and fourth quarters-time permitting.

The Regional Adviser feels all this adds up to a positive outcome of the mission to UNICEF/ESARO.

## VI FOLLOW-UP

The Regional Adviser is committed to follow-up the mission by:

- i. facilitating in preparation of the documentation for the Joint ECA/UNICEF-ESARO Sub-Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop;
- ii. securing ECA support in providing consultant inputs to prepare additional documentation for the workshop;
- iii. participating in the workshop as a resource person; and
- iv. undertaking joint country mission with UNICEF/ESARO to Tanzania in the second quarter 1996, with other country missions to follow in the third and fourth quarters.

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## TELEFAX TRANSMISSION

To: Parmeet Singh Date: 14 March 1996  
Fax: 251-1-510512 Pages:  
From: Mahesh Patel Ref:  
Subject: UNICEF-ECA MICS Surveys

We have been in discussion with the Kenya Country Office and the Central Bureau of Statistics. It would be helpful to the Regional Office of UNICEF, as well as the above agencies, if you could be in Kenya the week of the 18 March to discuss the following issues:

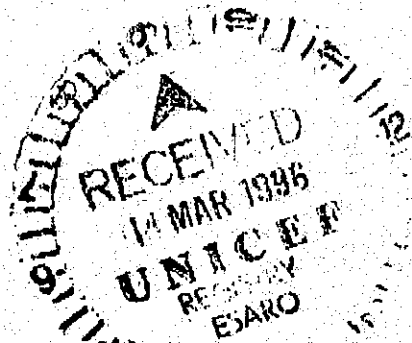
### Progress of MICS surveys

Data generation and utilization in the post 1995 (mid-decade) era  
collection of data on social indicators, and  
Regional poverty measures.

This would be a continuation of the very useful series of UNECA-UNICEF joint missions undertaken in 1995. Your early confirmation of availability would be appreciated.

Best regards.

Cc Shahida Azfar, RD  
Richard Morgan, SPPO



**FAX****FORM**

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

APPENDIX 1/B

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Page: 1 Of 1  
Fax Line: (251) 1 51 44 16

MSF-OCT 809/03

Date: 22 March 1996  
Ref: ECA/MRAG/100/96

To: Mr. Mahesh Patel, M. and E. Officer,  
UNICEF/ ESARO  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Fax (254-2) 622679 / 622678 ✓

c.c. Ms. Esther Guluma, SPO  
UNICEF Country Office,  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Fax (254-2) 215584 ✓

Mr. Walter Owuor, M. and E. Officer,  
Kenya Country Office,  
Nairobi, Kenya

From: Parmeet Singh, Regional Adviser  
MRAG-ECA  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*Parmeet Singh*

**VERY URGENT**

Subject: Joint UNICEF/ECA Mission to CBS Kenya

Your fax of 14 March 1996 on the above refers. I regret due to pressing official commitments here in Addis I was not able to initiate the above mission on 18 March 1996. It is now possible for me to undertake the mission starting 27 March for four working days to 1 April, 1996. Due to commitments in Addis I have to be in Addis on Wednesday 3 April but there is no flight from Nairobi that day. Hence my return on Tuesday 2 April and reduction of the mission to 4 working days.

I suggest the mission concentrates on:

- i. MICS to be conducted by CBS;
- ii. Restructuring and re-organization of CBS; and
- iii. Sub-regional status of MICS (time permitting)

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UNITED NATIONS  
1996

# MICS Experience Joint UNECA UNICEF ESARO Questionnaire

1. Country \_\_\_\_\_

## Survey Features

2. Main implementing institution \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the implementing institution have permanent field supervisors? Y/N
4. Does the implementing institution have permanent field enumerators? Y/N
5. Unicef contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Government contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Commencement date (training of field staff) (D/M/Y) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /96
7. Completion date (preliminary tables) (D/M/Y) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /96
8. What is the most recent significant source of comparative survey data, eg.  
DHS Census HHBudget Survey HHFood Security Other \_\_\_\_\_
9. Year 19\_\_ 19\_\_ 19\_\_ 19\_\_ 19\_\_
10. How close were MICS results to those from the other source?  
Very close Close Significantly different
11. Any specific problems caused by differences between results of MICS and the earlier comparative source used in country? \_\_\_\_\_
12. MICS geographic coverage?: National Partial (Emergency countries?)

## Questionnaire

13. Which indicator modules were included in the survey(s)?  
EPI ORT USI ARI Nutrition Water Sanitation Education IMR U5MR MMR
14. Was the MICS stand alone, or were Modules integrated into:  
Stand alone, DHS, Census, HHBudget Survey, HHFood Security, Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample

15. Was the sample drawn from a pre-existing Master Sample Frame? Y/N
16. Number of clusters \_\_\_\_\_ Number of households \_\_\_\_\_
17. Will there be sub-national (eg regional) reporting? Y/N
18. Numbers of regions? \_\_\_\_\_ Districts? \_\_\_\_\_ Sub-district? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Sampling errors reported for all indicators, national/sub-national levels? Y/N

## Follow-up Issues

20. Does Government Statistical Office have a multi-year survey plan? Y/N
21. Is it planned to integrate MICS modules in Statistical Office survey plan? Y/N
22. Have results been used for national policy making? (Please tick below) Y/N  
EPI ORT USI ARI Nutrition Water Sanitation Education IMR U5MR MMR
23. What were the main problems experienced in implementing the survey?
24. What were the main lessons learned from this process?
25. What are the types of follow-up that could be envisaged?

# **DRAFT PROPOSAL: Joint UNECA/UNICEF ESARO Sub-Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop**

Venue: Nairobi 2-6 September 1996

## **Format**

- Monday and Tuesday: Expert Working Group with Directors of Govt Statistical Offices jointly funded by UNICEF ESARO and UNECA with UNFPA as a probable joint convener.
- Wednesday-Friday, Technical training on M&E Issues for M&E POs

## **Introduction**

The Expert Working Group meeting last year was extremely successful, with leadership by 12 Directors of CSOs. It was recommended by the Expert Working Group that:

*"African country experiences in implementation of MICS should be reviewed with the aim of improving the methodology for use in monitoring over the period 1996-2000"*

and that the EWG reconvene Directors of CSOs to follow-up on this issue in 1996. Hence it has been decided to replicate that format this year. The time allocated to the EWG has been kept at two days. It is hoped that holding the meeting in Nairobi, with its excellent flight connections, will make it easier for a greater number of Directors to attend. Several Directors of CSOs present at the "Committee for African Statistical Development" at its 6th meeting in Addis Ababa in March 1996 their strong desire to attend the proposed EWG MICS follow-up meeting. UNECA is keen on continuing its participation as a joint initiator of this Working Group. At least one of the Regional UNFPA Offices is likely to attend at a senior level, and to assist us with the difficult issues of improving measurement of infant, child and maternal mortality. The World Bank Africa Division has also asked to be invited, and is expected to attend, paying special attention to the issue of defining social poverty.

At the last workshop, an increased technical training component was requested for the M&E (internal Unicef) component of next workshop. There is no substantive regional budget for this, and the training we can provide will depend on our own training capabilities! There has been special interest expressed in M&E in emergency situations, collection and use of qualitative information (RAP, FGD), and of monitoring of empowerment and capacity building activities.



## Participation

The Expert Working Group will be targeted for Directors of Central Statistical Organizations of governments in ESAR and Anglophone countries in WCAR. In general, they should be accompanied by an Unicef counterpart. In addition the UNFPA Country Support Team for Eastern Africa will attend and the CST for Southern Africa and the World Bank Africa Division will be invited to attend.

## Proposed background documents for the Expert Working Group

It is hoped to have several. The proposals below are very preliminary, producers of these papers have not yet been consulted! The objective is to promote interchange between statistical offices, and the production of joint papers of two or three pages each, wherever possible. Country Offices are requested to approach Directors of CSOs to ascertain the feasibility of such cooperation. UNECA/ESARO will attempt to provide some guidelines on the scope and content of these submissions.

### DAY ONE: REVIEW OF EXPERIENCE: PAPERS

- **Analysis of MICS Experience in the Region: UNECA/UNICEF ESARO**  
This analysis will be based on information obtained through a survey questionnaire on MICS experience, distributed to Country Offices in ESAR and Anglophone Country Offices in WCAR in April 1996. The analysis will cover: survey features, adoption/adaptations of the questionnaire, sample designs, and follow-up issues emerging.
- **Comparative analysis of quality of MICS data: Unicef HQ (GJ)**  
Reference criteria for the inclusion of MICS data in statistical yearbooks published by Unicef and other UN Organizations. Review of data adjustment procedures effected at the regional and global levels.
- **MICS survey design experience: UNECA/CSOs of Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland**  
The paper will include contributions by CSOs detailing their respective experiences on overall strategy adopted in conducting the survey. Their respective contributions will review institutional arrangements for conducting the survey and different aspects of survey design adopted, including questionnaire and sample design, and highlighting problems faced and lessons learned in these areas.
- **Integration of MICS into regular survey programmes and capacity building: UNECA/ CSOs of Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Kenya**  
This was an objective of the last workshop, and several countries have been successful in this area. The papers will describe the strategies adopted in integrating MICS into ongoing survey programmes, either as standalone surveys or camel backed modules into a multi-subject routine "core survey" or "uni-subject" surveys (eg. Household Budget Surveys, DHS...).

- The minimal programmatic needs for social statistics in emergency countries: Unicef Country Offices, CSOs in Angola, Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia  
Most of these countries will have collected MICS data in very difficult circumstances. The country papers will review their respective experiences focusing on strategies, achievements, constraints and opportunities.
- Decentralization of social statistics: UNECA & CSOs of Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania  
Country papers will review the status of social statistics derived through censuses, household surveys and administrative records, focussing on institutional requirements for the decentralization of data collection.
- Administrative records as an alternative to MICS: ESARO; Seychelles, Mauritius  
Contributions will review these unique experiences in the use of administrative records as a substitute source for MICS type data to compile indicators to measure progress towards NPA goals.

## DAY TWO: ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE: PAPERS

- Common core of UN basic social indicators required for Africa: UNECA/de Graft-Johnson/CSO Mauritius  
This paper will review overlap and unique features of the core data requirements of major UN organizations with a view to avoiding duplication of effort and simplifying the work of CSOs. (Incl. Unicef, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO.)
- Measurement of Mortality using Surveys: UNFPA CST Addis  
The UNFPA has indicated that they would be prepared to support Unicef by providing training and lessons learned on the measurement of infant, child and maternal mortality in Africa. UNFPA/UNICEF will jointly be developing a module that could be used for this purpose, and discussion of this topic in the workshop will be a first step in that development process and provide a training opportunity.
- Construction of a Social Poverty Measure: World Bank/UNICEF ESARO/UNECA  
Current poverty measures are unsatisfactory because income reporting in Africa yields poor data quality and countries have widely differing and somewhat arbitrarily defined poverty lines. This paper will work towards the definition of a measure of social poverty that would be based on a common set of verifiable social indicators that are currently covered in the MICS, or could easily be added.
- Monitoring Empowerment: UNICEF ESARO/UNICEF Uganda  
Unicef programmes are increasingly devoted towards promotion of empowerment. There are however, no means of measuring progress or assessing impact in this area. A conceptual framework and some proposals of specific indicators that could be used will be presented, as well as a methodology for assessing and choosing between

alternative empowerment strategies based on a mixture of hard and soft data.

- Moving from MDG to CRC and WSC/2000 reporting requirements (?)  
Adjusting to the data requirements of the second half of the decade will require a significant reorientation of Unicef data collection efforts. This paper will review the main parameters of the adjustment required.

This is a maximalist list. Not all papers could easily be accommodated in a two day meeting. UNICEF Country Offices and Directors of CSOs will be consulted on which papers are most needed and most feasible. Country papers should be two to three pages in length (and no more).

A report will be prepared of the outcome of the EWG, which will identify issues for consideration by the Committee for African Statistical Development, which is scheduled to convene in Addis Ababa in September/October 1996.

### **Resource Inputs**

- UNICEF: Coordination, resource person, secretarial support and host agency (ESARO), CSO and M&E PO participation (Country Offices)
- UNECA: Coordination, resource person, consultancy work on preparation of background paper(s).

Author: Mahesh Patel at PO326A01

Date: 28/03/96 12:52

Priority: Normal

Receipt Requested

TO: Leila Bisharat at PO641A01

TO: John J. Donohue at PO641A01

CC: Gareth Jones at PO641A01

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TO: were@unfpa.org at INTERNET

TO: tmarchant@worldbank.org at INTERNET

TO: Richard Morgan

TO: Shahida Azfar

BCC: Jane Mwangi

Subject: Joint Expert Working Group and M&E Workshop Proposal

----- Message Contents -----

Parmeet Singh is here in Nairobi  
and we have together prepared  
a questionnaire on MICS experience in the region  
and a proposal for the joint  
Expert Working Group component  
of the sub-regional ESAR M&E Workshop.

We would be most grateful if you could spend a few minutes  
reviewing these materials  
and input and suggestions for modifications  
before we distribute them to country offices  
at the end of next week.

Please note that commitments proposed for organisations,  
papers, and people that we have not yet discussed with you  
are only tentative,  
but naturally we would welcome all proposals for participation.

Warm regards,  
Parmeet and Mahesh

APPENDIX 4